



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

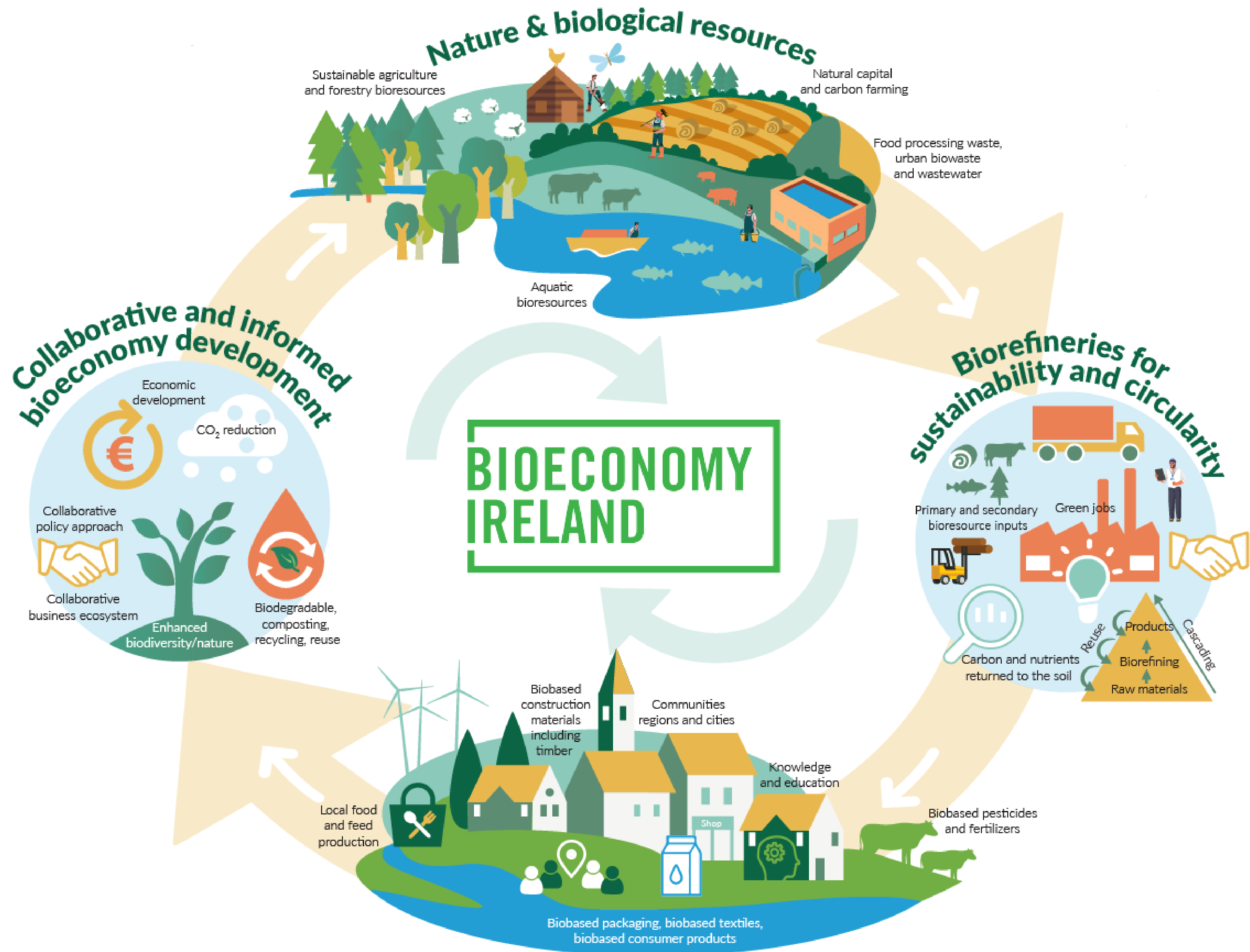
Bioeconomy Action Plan and opportunities

Laura Broomfield
15th October 2025

What is the Bioeconomy?

The **bioeconomy** encompasses sectors and systems that conserve, use, process, distribute or consume biological resources from land and sea including agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food processing, construction, packaging, chemicals and organic waste sectors and land and marine ecosystems.

The **circular bioeconomy** should use renewable sustainable biological resources from land and sea, such as crops, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture and wastes, and converts these resources and their processing by-products into value-added biobased products including, but not limited to, proteins, oils and fats, feed, fertilisers, plastics, building block chemicals and energy.



Cross-Sectoral Impact



Start up and Scale up Strategy

Biotech Act



Bioeconomy Strategy

Ocean Pact & OK 2030



Life Science Strategy

Circular Economy Act & Strategy

Cross-Sectoral Impact

EU BIOECONOMY
European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy

Total and per sector employment and added value generated

	
EMPLOYMENT (MILLION JOBS)	VALUE ADDED (BILLION EUR)
17.19	728

		EMPLOYMENT (MILLION JOBS)	VALUE ADDED (BILLION EUR)	VALUE ADDED (SHARE TOT)
	AGRICULTURE	8.6	204	28 %
	FORESTRY	0.5	25	3.4 %
	FISHING AND AQUACULTURE	0.2	6	0.8 %
	FOOD, BEVERAGES AND OTHER AGRO-MANUFACTURING	4.7	262	36 %
	BIO-BASED TEXTILES	0.7	25	3.5 %
	WOOD PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE	1.4	66	9.1 %
	PAPER	0.6	49	6.7 %
	BIO-BASED CHEMICALS AND PHARMA- CEUTICALS, PLASTICS AND RUBBER	0.5	78	11 %
	LIQUID BIOFUELS	0.03	8	0.8 %
	BIOELECTRICITY	0.04	6	1.0 %

DATA 2021 EU-27
© European Union, 2024

Joint
Research
Centre

Source: based on Lasarte-López et al. (2024)
<http://data.europa.eu/89h/7d7d5481-2d02-4b36-bc79-607b04fa4278>

BIOECONOMY IRELAND

Bioeconomy in Ireland

National Bioeconomy Policy & Progress to Date

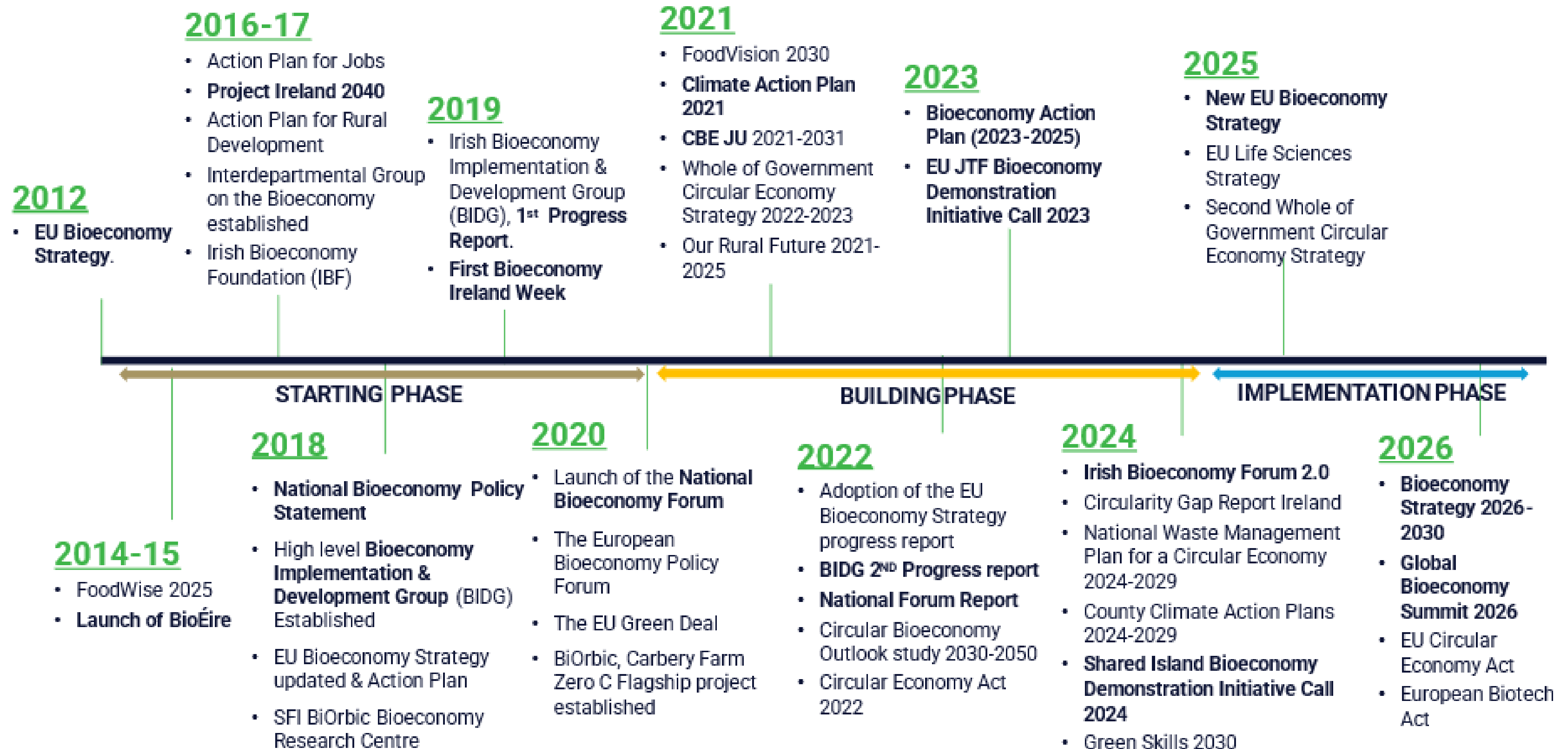
CONNECTING
IRELAND'S
BIOECONOMY

Bioeconomy in Ireland

- National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy, 2018
 - Principles of Irish bioeconomy
 - Cross Governmental Bioeconomy Implementation Group
 - Recognised the role of the Irish Bioeconomy Forum
 - Thematic papers on the bioeconomy
- Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023 – 2025
 - Bioeconomy Development and Implementation Group
 - Irish Bioeconomy Forum 2.0
 - Expanded principles
 - 7 core pillars, 72 steps to delivery



Bioeconomy Timeline



Bioeconomy Action Plan implementation – Highlights

- Publication of [Bioeconomy in Action video series](#) to facilitate increased public and stakeholder understanding and awareness of the bioeconomy (Action 1.1)
- [NSAI Committee for Bioeconomy | NSAI](#) (Action 1.1.6)
- Renewal of the [Irish Bioeconomy Forum 2.0 \(2024 to 2025\)](#) (Action 1.3)
- DAFM, EPA, SEAI Competitive Research Funding Opportunities (Action 2.2)
- BiOrbic RI National Bioeconomy Centre (Action 2.4)
- Publication of [National Biomethane Strategy](#) which integrates bioeconomy principles (Action 3.4)
- €29 million offered for [national bioeconomy piloting and demonstration initiatives](#) (Action 4.1)
- [Rural Ideas Fora](#): Demonstrating Bio-based Solutions for Rural Communities (Action 5.1)
- [BioDirect](#) project as a case study to accelerate the adoption of circular bio-based products and technologies across key sectors (Action 6.1)
- [SOSV Fund V and SOSV Ireland Biomanufacturing Fund](#) (Action 6.5)
- Bioeconomy included in the Climate Action & Sustainable Development Leaving Cert Subject (Action 7.2)
- Bioeconomy included in [Green Skills for FET 2030 strategy](#) (Action 7.3)
- [Taoiseach and Ministers Heydon and Muir announce €9 million Shared Island funding for two bioeconomy demonstration projects](#)

Bioeconomy: Have your say

National Level

- Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy [public consultation](#) now open, closes **05 November**

European Level

- The European Commission public consultation for Bioeconomy Strategy closed on 23 June 2025. BIDG response submitted by DCEE
- Commission launches consultation and call for evidence for upcoming Circular Economy Act, feedback closes **6 November 2025** ([Circular Economy Act Consultation](#))
- Biotech Act public consultation, feedback closes **10 November 2025**

Danish Presidency

- December event Copenhagen, launch of EU Bioeconomy Strategy

BIOECONOMY IRELAND

Bioeconomy in Ireland

Bioeconomy in Local Authorities

CONNECTING
IRELAND'S
BIOECONOMY

Bioeconomy in Action – Pillar 5

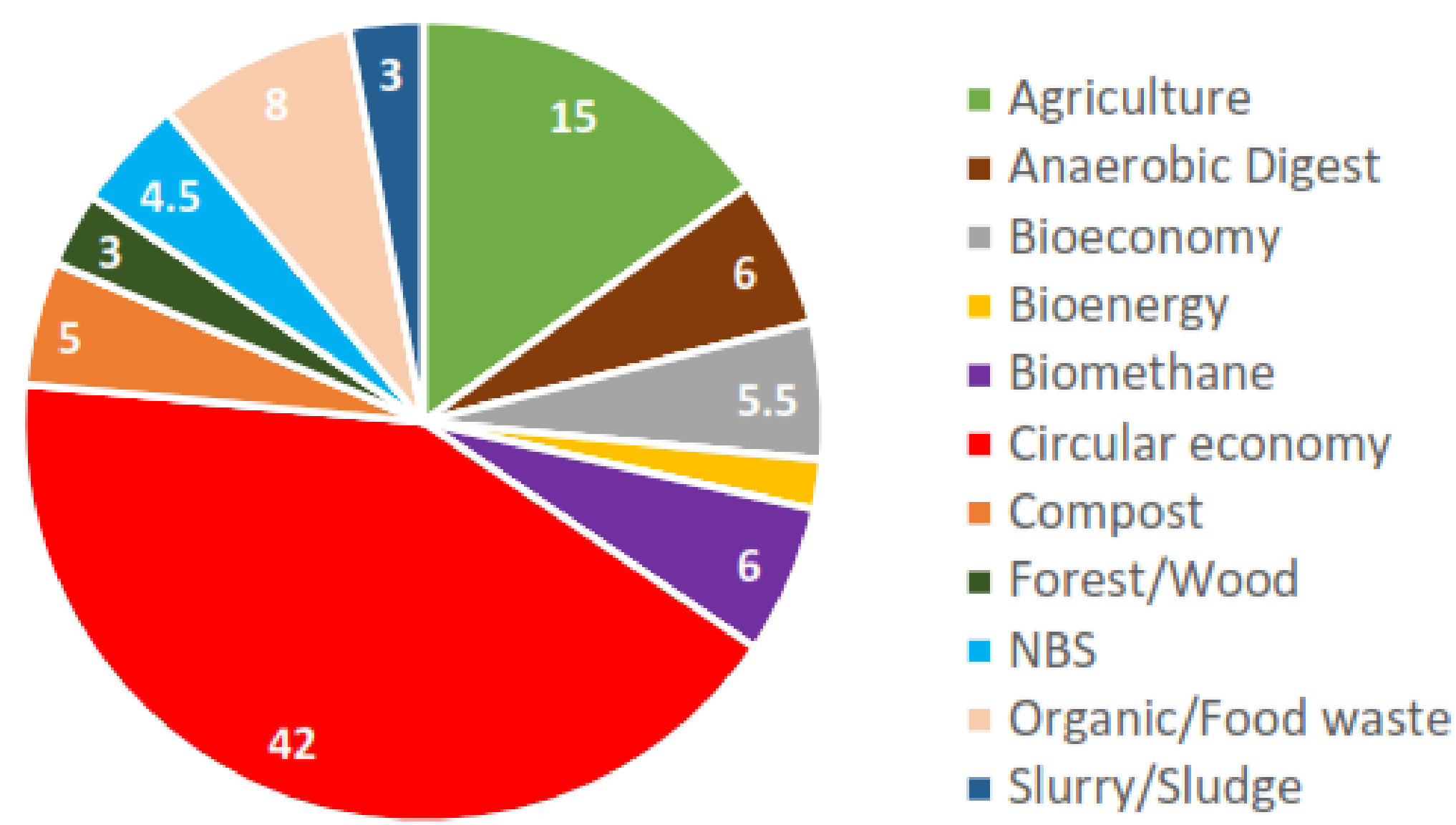
Actions at a Glance

- Advance bioeconomy governance across communities, regions, and cities
- Boost regional enterprises and skills for the bioeconomy
- Utilize ERDF and LEADER funding to support regional and local sustainable and circular bioeconomy development

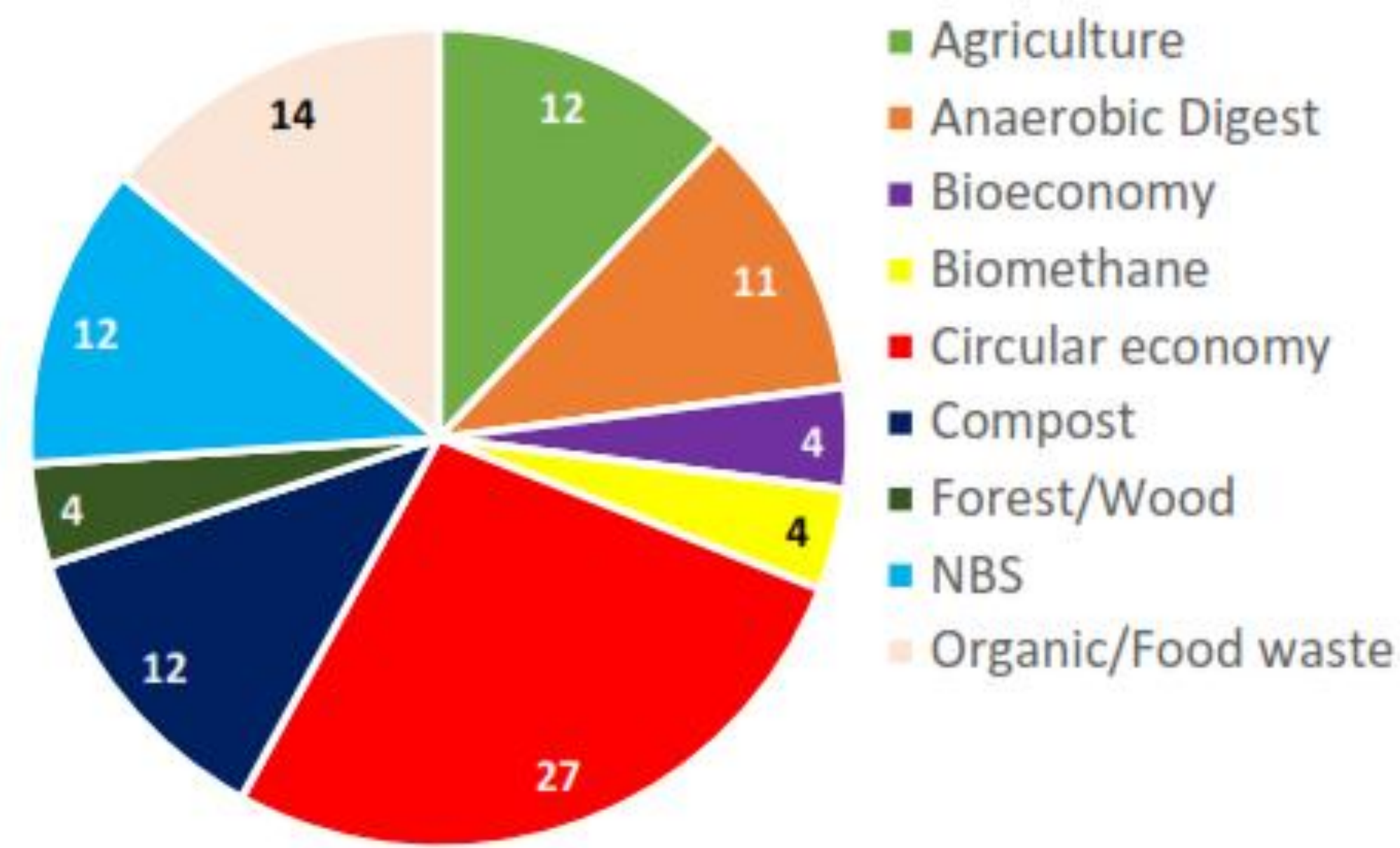


Bioeconomy in Action – Local Authorities

- Local Authority Climate Action Plans



Local Authority Climate Action Plans



Local Authority Decarbonisation Zones

Bioeconomy in Action – Local Authorities

- Galway County Council:
 - Support farmers in the shift toward low-carbon and climate-resilient agricultural practices, including innovative farming practices such as paludiculture. Work with relevant agencies to develop and implement a joined-up awareness/knowledge transfer strategy for the agricultural and food sectors. Develop a tool kit and training programme for engagement during routine farm visits.
- Roscommon County Council:
 - Engage with Teagasc and the agricultural community on the potential for emissions reduction, biodiversity enhancement and environmental pollution prevention in conjunction with existing agri-environmental schemes and through the application of innovative technologies in waste management and renewable energy generation
- Tipperary County Council:
 - Facilitate, advocate for and support the agriculture sector in meeting their own emissions reductions targets and in achieving energy in agriculture, farm diversification and smart climate land-use for example, opportunities around the bioeconomy.

Bioeconomy in Action – Tipperary County Council

- Link bioeconomy with decarbonisation, e.g. the Mid-Tipperary Low Carbon Community
- Collaborate with industry and academia, e.g. through the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation
- Engage with the community and stakeholders, e.g. through Climate Action Team, Sustainable Tipp, the Mid-Tipperary Decarbonising Zone
- Establishment of Biomethane Development Office
- EU Just Transition: Lisheen Bioeconomy Scale-up
 - €5 million from bioeconomy call, plus €1 million towards the masterplan development of the campus
 - Collaboration between universities, the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation, and the dairy and forestry bioprocessing industries
 - Conversion of dairy-side streams, food waste and wood processing wastewater into biobased chemicals and materials
- Queries on bioeconomy in Tipperary County Council: Elaine.Cullinan@tipperarycoco.ie

BIOECONOMY IRELAND

Bioeconomy in Ireland

National Bioeconomy Strategy & Action Plan 2026-2030

CONNECTING
IRELAND'S
BIOECONOMY

National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026 - 2030

- Ireland's [Bioeconomy Action Plan](#) will conclude when the National Bioeconomy Strategy is published
- Action 1.7 of the Action Plan calls for the development of a National Bioeconomy Strategy
- DAFM & DCEE will lead the development of a national Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan throughout the rest of 2025 and will complete the task in Q3 2026
- Consideration of the EU Strategy

National Bioeconomy Strategy & Action Plan 2026 - 2030

Overview: key steps and timeline

Preparation Work	Q2 2025
• Stakeholder Identification • Needs Assessment • Situation Analysis	
Initial Draft Document	Q3 2025
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment	Q3 2025
Public Consultation	Q4 2025
Final Draft Document	Q1 2026
Send to Government	Q2 2026
Publication & launch	Q3 2026

National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026 - 2030

Draft Structure

1. Vision for Ireland's Bioeconomy
2. Mission Statement
3. Guiding Principles for Ireland's Bioeconomy
4. State of Play
 - i. Local and Regional Actions
 - ii. National Developments
 - iii. European and International Initiatives
5. Priority Areas
6. Actions 2026-2030
7. Measuring and Reporting Ireland's Bioeconomy

National Bioeconomy Strategy 2026 - 2030

Next Steps

- Blue Bioeconomy workshop
- Prepare Initial Draft Strategy
- SEA and AA
- NESC Stakeholder event (January 2026)
- Public consultation
- Send to Government
- Launch and implement



Thank you

Laura.Broomfield@dcee.gov.ie